THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) As per the existing policy and procedure, provisional incidentals for procurement of rice, wheat and Coarsegrains applicable to central pool in respect of all the States including Andhra Pradesh are issued at the beginning of each Marketing Season. For finalization of these provisional incidentals, annual audited accounts/ annual reports are submitted by State Governments and their agencies. Same are examined in the Department and a detailed report is prepared for each crop year. This report is sent to State Government for their comments/suggestions on provisional findings. A meeting is convened in the Department with the concerned State Government at their request in case they have differing opinion on provisional findings to finalise the incidental rates.

After issue of final incidentals, payment of balance amount to the State/State agency is made by the Food Corporation of India on receipt of claims form the State.

In respect of coarsegrains (Maize) procured by Govt. of Andhra Pradesh and its agencies, including Andhra Pradesh State Cooperative Marketing Federation Ltd. (AP MARKFED), incidentals for the year 2003-04 and 2004-05 have already been finalized and communicated to State Government on 03.12.2008 and 07.01.2009 respectively. The State Government requested for revision of economic cost finalized by the Department. The matter was discussed with State Government/AP MARKFED in the meetings on 20.04.2009 and 02.09.2009 and based on discussions, the State Government was requested to send additional information alongwith relevant documents for reconsideration of Department. The same has been received on 01.12.2009 in the Department.

Financial Accounts of Government of Andhra Pradesh/AP MARKFED in respect of procurement of rice for the year 2001-02 to 2005-06 were received together in August, 2008. Kharif Marketing wise accounts/claim have been sent only for 2002-03 on 04.11.2009. There is no undue delay in finalization of accounts of AP MARKFED and time taken for finalization is due to delayed submission of accounts/incomplete information and documents from the State.

Potential to export fruits and vegetables

1694. SHRI BHAGAT SINGH KOSHYARI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been a substantial increase in the production of fruits and vegetables in the country;

(b) if so, in what ways the fruits and vegetables produced in the country are utilized;

(c) whether any possibility has been explored by Government to increase the export of fruits and vegetables; and

(d) if so, the performance in that regard during the last three years, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. There has been increase in production of both fruits and vegetables in recent years as per following details:

(Quantity : Million Tonnes)

Commodity	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09 (3rd Advance)
Fruits	59.56	65.60	69.45
Vegetable	115.01	129.26	133.07

Source : National Horticulture Board (NHB)

Fruits and vegetables are utilized for table consumption, processing into value added products, exports etc.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. Agriculture and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) in the Ministry of Commerce has been promoting export of fruits through several measures such as infrastructure development; setting up of Agri Export Zones; opening up new markets for export; participation in international trade fairs and providing financial assistance to exporters for several activities. Other steps include integrated training programmes for quality and productivity of selected fruits and setting up pilot facilities for disinfestations etc. to meet specific quarantine requirements of importing countries.

The details of export of fruits and vegetables during the last three years is as below:

(Quantity-in Metric Tonnes and Value - Rs. in lakh)

Year	Fruits		Vegetable	
2006-07	347660	871.88	1655198	159645
2007-08	365733	91185	1358841	152527
2008-09	NA	245374	NA	194531

Source: Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics (DGCIS)

Performance of Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana

1695. SHRI R.C. SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of steps taken by Government for better performance in agriculture and allied sectors, particularly with reference to West Bengal in the last three years and how those steps reflected in the higher production of foodgrains and oil seeds in the country;

(b) whether Government has assessed the performance of Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?